



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA  
94102-3688  
Tel 415-865-4200  
TDD 415-865-4272  
Fax 415-865-4205  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)

## FACT SHEET

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# Juvenile Delinquency Court Assessment

The Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), Administrative Office of the Courts, is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of juvenile delinquency court in California. The areas of inquiry are hearings and other court processes; court collaboration with justice system partners; placement, treatment, and supervision options for youth; perspectives of parties and interested groups (youth, parents, victims, community); education and training; and customer service.

### Purpose of the Assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to provide information to help improve the juvenile delinquency system. The resulting information may be used to make recommendations for changes in laws and rules of court; improvements in hearing management, judicial oversight, court facilities, and other aspects of court operations; changes in judicial and attorney caseload; and improvements in court services for youth, families, victims, the community, and other parties. The ultimate goal of this process is to improve both the administration of justice and the lives of youth and everyone affected by the delinquency system.

### Court Involvement in the Assessment

CFCC will be conducting a series of studies—some on a statewide basis and some in select jurisdictions—in order to examine the many areas within the mandate of this assessment.

Results of the assessment will be released in a series of reports during the study period and in a final report in the summer of 2007, which will contain recommendations for systems changes.

### **Statewide surveys**

During the study period, CFCC will be conducting mail surveys of juvenile delinquency judges, commissioners, and referees; district attorneys; defense attorneys; probation officers; and other groups. The participation of all survey recipients is deeply appreciated. The assessment may also include a comprehensive examination of the alignment of state laws, federal statutes, and best practices regarding juvenile court hearings.

### **Studies in select jurisdictions**

Project staff will be traveling around the state in select jurisdictions to conduct interviews and focus groups with incarcerated youth, probation youth, parents of youth, victims, and community stakeholders. Studies will also be conducting via courtroom observation, file review, and analysis of data from case management systems.

Contact: LaRon Hogg, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, [laron.hogg@jud.ca.gov](mailto:laron.hogg@jud.ca.gov), 415-865-8834

Iona Mara-Drita, Senior Research Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, [iona.mara-drita@jud.ca.gov](mailto:iona.mara-drita@jud.ca.gov), 415-865-7563

## **Juvenile Delinquency Court Assessment Working Group**

### **Hon. Brian Back, Chair**

Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Ventura

### **Ms. Trish Anderson**

Deputy Public Defender  
Placer County Public Defender's Office

### **Hon. Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian**

Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal,  
Sixth Appellate District

### **Ms. Karen Cannata**

I.S. Supervising Research Analyst  
Administrative Office of the Courts

### **Ms. Judith Cox**

Chief Probation Officer  
Santa Cruz County Probation

### **Mr. Cregor Datig**

Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Riverside County District Attorney's Office

### **Hon. Nancy Davis**

Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of San Francisco

### **Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan**

Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Riverside

**Hon. Leonard Edwards**  
Judge-in-Residence  
Administrative Office of the Courts

**Ms. Jackie Escajeda**  
Senior Court Services Analyst  
Administrative Office of the Courts

**Mr. Wesley Forman**  
Chief Probation Officer  
Mendocino County Probation

**Mr. Larry Gobelman**  
Executive Officer  
Superior Court of California  
County of Siskiyou

**Mr. John Greacen**  
Consultant, Greacen Associates LLC

**Hon. Lois Haight**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Contra Costa

**Hon. Susan Harlan**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Amador

**Ms. Elizabeth Howard**  
Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties

**Hon. Robert Hutson**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Orange

**Mr. Phil Kader**  
Juvenile Probation Division Director  
Fresno Probation Department

**Ms. Tracy Kenny**  
Senior Governmental Affairs Analyst  
Office of Governmental Affairs

**Ms. Miriam Krinsky**  
Executive Director  
Children's Law Center of Los Angeles

**Hon. Kurt E. Kumli**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Santa Clara

**Ms. Patricia Lee**  
Managing Attorney  
San Francisco Public Defender's Office

**Hon. Jan Levine**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Los Angeles

**Mr. Rick Lewkowitz**  
Juvenile Division Supervisor  
Sacramento County District Attorney's  
Office

**Ms Debbie Mochizuki**  
Appellate Attorney  
Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

**Ms. Tamara Mosbarger**  
Supervising Deputy District Attorney  
Butte County District Attorney's Office

**Mr. Harold Nabors**  
Executive Officer  
Superior Court of California,  
County of Madera

**Hon. Michael Nash**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Los Angeles

**Mr. Winston Peters**  
Assistant Public Defender  
Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office

**Hon. Kenneth Peterson**  
Judge of the Superior Court of California  
County of Sacramento

**Mr. Jerry Powers**  
Chief Probation Officer  
Stanislaus County Probation

**Ms. Florence Prushan**

Manager

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Mr. Calvin Remington**

Chief Probation Officer

Ventura County Probation

**Mr. Michael Roddy**

Executive Officer

Superior Court of California,  
County of San Diego

**Ms. Sherrie Sperry**

Deputy Probation Officer

Calaveras County Probation Office

**Hon. Dean Stout**

Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of Inyo

**Hon. Denise Lee Whitehead**

Judge of the Superior Court of California  
County of Fresno

**AOC STAFF**

**Dr. Amy Bacharach**

Research Analyst

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Ms. Audrey Fancy**

Attorney

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Mr. Don Will**

Supervising Research Analyst

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Ms. Iona Mara-Drita**

Senior Research Analyst

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Ms. Katherine Runkel**

Secretary

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts

**Ms. LaRon Hogg**

Attorney

Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts

